

worked diligently to ensure that the transportation sales tax program has been executed in an efficient, effective and equitable manner, consistent with the voters' intent. He recently played an integral role in establishing the necessary consensus building efforts leading to the successful passage in 2004, of Measure J—the successor transportation sales tax to Measure C. His legacy will live on in this Measure and in a series of transportation projects that are instrumental and essential to the communities they serve.

Prior to serving as the executive director for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Bob McCleary was also involved in other regional programs such as the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority where he served as the Deputy Director for Project Management. During Bob's stay at the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority he helped establish the new authority and manage the day to day project implementation of a \$1 billion dollar local sales tax program. This program would fund three State highways, the first of its kind in California and relied heavily on a partnership with Caltrans, local government, and the private sector for success. Bob McCleary made sure it became a success.

Madam Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in thanking Robert McCleary for his long and dedicated service to the citizens of California and wishing him continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors along with a happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to the death of a family member, I was absent from the House for the week of November 30 and thus not recorded for any votes that week. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way on bills considered by the House:

On rollcall vote No. 911, on H.R. 3029, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 912, on H.R. 727, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 913, on H.R. 3667, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 914, on H. Res. 494, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 915, on H. Con. Res. 129, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 916, on H. Res. 861, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 917, on H. Res. 897, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 918, on H.R. 3634, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 919, on H.R. 515, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 920, on H. Con. Res. 197, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 921, on H.R. 1242, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 922, on H.R. 3980, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 923, on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 4154, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 924, on H. Res. 941, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 925, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 926, on H. Res. 28, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 927, on the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 928, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4154, I would have voted "nay";

On rollcall vote No. 929, on H.R. 4154, I would have voted "yea";

On rollcall vote No. 930, on H.R. 3570, I would have voted "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, a personal matter prevented my presence in the House this past Thursday, December 03, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of the Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009 (H.R. 4154).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, I was unable to be present for recorded votes because I was attending the memorial service held in Tacoma, Washington for the four police officers of the Lakewood Police Department who were killed last week in the line of duty.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 931 (on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3288); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 932 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 199, as amended); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 933 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 206, as amended); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 934 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 940); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 935 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 845, as amended); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 936 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2278, as amended); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 937 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 915); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 938 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 907).

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN MAURICE GLENN BELL, SURVIVOR OF THE USS "INDIANAPOLIS"

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of World War II veteran

Maurice Glenn Bell of Mobile, Alabama, who passed away on December 4, 2009, at the age of 84.

Mr. Bell proudly embodied the qualities that our nation has associated with the "Greatest Generation"—those Americans who were called to give everything for the defense of our freedom and the liberation of millions overseas. Mr. Bell was absolutely committed to serving his country in wartime, and after the war, he was a role model of character and courage in civilian life.

In 1943, when he was summoned to serve in the Second World War, Mr. Bell was already working as an electrician's helper in the Mobile shipyards. He joined the Navy and saw engagements in places we know well from our history books—including the allied invasions of Tarawa, Saipan, and the battle of the Philippine Sea.

But the World War II experience for which Mr. Bell is best remembered is uniquely linked to the vessel upon which he served—the historic USS *Indianapolis*. It was the *Indianapolis* that delivered the first atomic bomb to be dropped on Japan. And after the heavy cruiser was struck by two Japanese torpedoes in the middle of the night on July 30, 1945, Mr. Bell was among the 900 crew members who were able to get into the water in an attempt to save themselves.

Mr. Bell and his comrades spent four days in the unforgiving ocean awaiting rescue—an ordeal that subjected them to near constant shark attack and dehydration. Of the 1,196 men on board the *Indianapolis* before she went down, only 316 survived—including Maurice Bell.

Like many *Indianapolis* veterans, he had remained mostly silent about his experiences on those four fateful days in 1945. However, 62 years later, he was given a chance to tell his story before a national audience as part of the PBS World War II documentary, "The War." The Ken Burns film interviewed a number of Mobile area veterans, including Mr. Bell.

Mr. Bell also captivated local audiences who would hear his stories about those long days and nights adrift in a seemingly dark and bottomless sea. He urged them never to give up.

It is ironic that this veteran of the war in the Pacific was buried on December 7, 2009—the 68th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Alabama is fortunate to have so many veterans like Maurice Bell who love their country and answered its call in time of need. We will always owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

I join this House in offering condolences to his wonderful wife of 65 years, Lois Bell, and their three children, Beverly Gros, Bonnie Hall and David Bell, and six grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

May they be comforted in knowing that they remain in our prayers during their time of loss.

RECOGNIZING ARIZONA'S GIFT OF THE 2009 CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the State of Arizona's